MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

NEWPORT PAGNELL RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942

Section A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	61,686
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,320
Rateable Value	£. 59,924
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£.245/19/-

Section B.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

Section C.

WATER

There has been no shortage from either source and a full supply has been maintained throughout the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the Olney source have been made quarterly. In each case a satisfactory report was received.

78 new connections were made during the year.

In connection with this I append a Table shewing, in each Parish, the approximate number of houses, and the number of houses connected to the Public Supply:-

Parish.	Approximate number of houses.	Houses supplied.	Percentage
Astwood	41	35	85%
Bradwell	160	90	56
Bow Brickhill		practically 100%.	
Little Brickhill		do.	
Broughton	27	9	33
Castlethorpe	160	66	40
Chicheley	62	17	27
Clifton Reynes	31	19	61
Emberton	169	74	44
Hanslope		practically 100%.	
Hardmead	18	6	33
Lathbury		practically 100%.	
Lavendon	235	49	21
Loughton	135	74	55
Milton Keynes	60	6	10
Moulsoe	62	28	45
Newton Blossomville	54	28	52

/North Crawley

Section C. WATER (Contd).

Parish.	Approximate number of houses.	Houses supplied.	Percentage.
North Crawley	191	97	51%
Olney	826	326	39
Ravenstone	80	36	45
Shenley Church End	70	21	30
Sherington	155	71	46
Walton		practically 100%.	
Wavendon		do.	
Woburn Sands		do.	
Woolstone cum Willen	42	17	40
Woughton		practically 100%.	

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

Sewage Schemes for the following Parishes: Emberton, Hanslope, Lavendon, Bradwell and Bow Brickhill, had been submitted to the Ministry of Health before the War. On account of the War no further progress has been made in these schemes. They are all urgently needed and I hope they will be put in hand as soon as circumstances permit. The provision of proper sewage and drainage works in Rural Parishes will be of the utmost importance in the post War period, in view of the permanent growth in Agriculture. It will be the first, or one of the first problems to be tackled, as without proper drainage a Parish cannot develop on sound hygienic lines. We already have a first class water supply throughout the District due to the energy and foresight of the Council; and housing is being energetically tackled. These three, water supply, drainage and housing, are the basis on which a healthy and prosperous community is built.

The existing Sewage Works in the District have worked satisfactorily during the year.

The sewer ditches have been cleaned where found necessary.

SCAVENGING

The Scheme for Newton Blossomville & Clifton Reynes has worked well during the year. It is hoped that a combined scheme by direct labour will be put into operation at an early date covering the whole of the Northern Division.

The Southern Division is scavenged by direct labour. Some difficulty has been encountered owing to the shortage of labour, but on the whole scavenging has been carried out satisfactorily.

/Section D. HOUSING.

Section D.

HOUSING

No new houses have been erected during the year.

By 1939 the following Schemes were ready to put into operation :-

Olney	24 houses.	8 of these have been erected.
Castlethorpe	8 "	4 " " " " "
Hanslope	4 "	
Bow Brickhill	8 "	

Owing to the War, the carrying out of these Schemes was postponed, except as indicated above.

In view of the importance of Housing in the post War period, the Housing Committee have been thoroughly into the question. The Chairman of that Committee recommended the purchase of as many building plots as possible at an early date so that Schemes may be proceeded with as soon as circumstances allow. This is a most valuable contribution and will do much to expedite the erection of houses.

Although the population has diminished somewhat to what it was during the first year or two of the War, because a certain number of Evacuees have left the District, there is, nevertheless, a certain amount of overcrowding still present. This cannot be alleviated until more houses are built. This overcrowding will no doubt be taken into consideration by the Housing Committee in formulating their future plans.

Inspections of houses have been made and repairs carried out where urgently necessary.

Section E.

Routine inspections of Premises where food is prepared have been made.

MILK.

8 new Producers have been registered.

6 Cowsheds & Dairies have been re-conditioned.

On the whole the condition of Cowsheds and Dairies is fairly satisfactory considering the labour difficulties, especially the shortage of skilled workers.

/Section F.

Section F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table I

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the Year 1942.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	18	11	
Pneumonia	7	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	0	
Erysipelas	5	0	
Measles	7	0	
Whooping Cough	8	0	

The cases notified occurred in the following Parishes :-

SCARLET FEVER

	Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Old Bradwell	2	0
Woburn Sands	4	2
Little Brickhill	4	1
Hanslope	1	1
Great Woolstone	1	1
Lavendon	5	5
Astwood	1	1
Total:-	18	11

PNEUMONIA

Bow Brickhill	1
Emberton	1
Hanslope	1
Little Brickhill	2
Loughton	2
	7

/Puerperal Pyrexia

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Parish.	Cases notified
East End Maternity Hospital. (Tyringham House)	7

ERYSIPELAS

Olney	2
Emberton	1
Loughton	1
Little Brickhill	1
Total	5

MEASLES

Haversham	4
Woburn Sands	2
Loughton	1
Total	7

WHOOPING COUGH

Emberton	5
Lavendon	1
Olney	1
Clifton Reynes	1
Total	8

Table II.

Disease.	Scarlet Fever		Pneumonia.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Erysipelas.		Measles.		Whooping Cough.	
Age Period	Notifications.	Admitted to Hospital	N.	A. to H	N.	A. to H	N.	A. to H	N	A. to H	N.	A. to H
Under 1 Yr.									2			
1 - 2 Yrs.											2	
2 - 3 "			1						1			
3 - 4 "	2	2										
4 - 5 "									1			
5 - 10 "	10	5	2						3		6	
10- 15 "	3	2	2									
15- 20 "					1							
20- 35 "	2	1	1		4		2					
35- 45 "	1	1			2							
45- 65 "							1					
Over 65"			1				2					
Total:	18	11	7		7		5		7		8	

Table III.

TUBERCULOSIS. - New Cases notified during 1942.

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year				
1 - 5 Years				1
5 - 10 "			1	
10- 15 "				
15- 20 "				
20- 25 "	1	1		
25- 35 "	1	1		1
35- 45 "				1
45- 55 "				
55- 65 "				
Over 65 Years.				
Total:	2	2	1	3

DYSENTERY

There was an outbreak of this disease at a Residential Nursery at Tyringham. It began in July and was caused by a child being sent from London who had been in contact with Dysentery there.

The inmates of the Institution consisted of 20 children, 10 of whom were under 1 year, and a Staff consisting of a Matron, 4 Nurses, 19 Students, a Cook Housekeeper and 4 Domestics.

The outbreak was investigated by the Emergency Laboratory at Oxford. The organism causing it was the Flexner Bacillus.

The outstanding feature of the outbreak was the extreme mildness of the disease. Not only were there no deaths, but none of the children were ill for more than a day, and a number of persons were excreting the Bacilli without any symptoms of the disease.

The following Table shows the number infected with and without any symptoms of the disease. -

	Bact. Flexneri positive.		Bact. Flexneri negative		
	Symptoms of Dysentery.	No Symptoms of Dysentery.	Symptoms of Dysentery	No Symptoms of Dysentery.	Total.
Staff	9	8	0	12	29
Toddlers	7	0	1	2	10
Babies	2	0	1	7	10

Bacteriological examinations were made at regular intervals extending over a period of 10 weeks.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This matter was seriously tac led by the Council in 1941 and the drive has been maintained since.

The principle acted on was that each School in the area should be visited by a Medical man and a Nurse to carry out the inoculations. This entailed a good deal of preliminary work. The Head Teachers were approached and asked to obtain the written consent of the parents of as many children as possible. This onerous duty was willingly undertaken and a great deal of credit is due to them. The Education Authority was also most helpful in placing the Schools at our disposal and starting propaganda through their Health Visitors. In all 22 Schools under the Education Committee, and 3 Private Schools, were visited.

I append a list of schools visited and the numbers inoculated.

Name of School.	Estimated number in School.	Under 5	Over 5	Full Course.	Percentage
Astwood Vicarage Schl.	8	1	5	6	63
Astwood	40	8	16	24	60
Old Bradwell	55	12	47	59	100% over
Bow Brickhill	27	6	38	44	100% over
Little Brickhill	48	6	24	30	63
Bayfield Hse. do.	40		32	32	80
Castlethorpe	98	7	57	64	65
Emberton	69	10	49	59	85
Hanslope Central	200	11	102	113	57
do. Church End	99	10	63	73	73
Haversham	86	10	52	62	72
Lavendon	90	2	45	47	52
Gt. Linford	90	11	76	87	96
Milton Keynes	29	9	20	29	100
Moulsoe	37	4	30	34	92
N.Blossomville	21	10	17	27	80
North Crawley	60	10	40	50	83
Olney Senior	235		190	190	80
Olney Junior	373	8	274	282	75
Convent,Olney.	57	6	51	57	100
Shenley C.End	110	4	53	57	52
Sherington	115	6	64	70	61
Stoke Goldington	56	8	44	52	92
Tyringham and Filgrave	22	4	17	21	100
Wavendon	61	5	47	52	85
Woburn Sands		10	140	150	under Beds R.D.C
Woughton		5	5	5	" Blchly. U.D.C
Newport Pagnell		7	30	37	" N. P. U.D.C
Wolverton			94	94	" Wolvtn. U.D.C
Totals:-		185	1720	1905	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (contd.)

This takes us to the end of 1941.

In 1942

60 children under 5 years were immunised;
14 " from 5-15 " " "

They were distributed as follows :-

	Under 5 years.	5-15 years.
North Crawley	4	7
Bow Brickhill	16	5
Old Bradwell.	15	2
Newport Pagnell Welfare Centre	16	
Olney Welfare Centre	9	
Total:-	60	14

Summary to end of Year

	Number Immunised.	Estimated Population.	Percentage
Under 5 years	245	800	31%
5-15 years	1734	2800	62%

These figures show that it is more difficult to reach children under 5 than those between 5-15 years. This is because those under 5 do not, as a rule, attend school. Theoretically, these children should be contacted at the Welfare Centres, but in a scattered district like this only a small percentage attend the Centres.

The only way to reach those under 5 is to get them immunised by their own Doctor.

I shall ask the Council early in the New Year to adopt a Scheme whereby private Practitioners can immunise children under 5 at their own homes or at the Doctor's Surgery, the Council paying the Doctors an agreed fee.

This concludes my Report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. H. F. BAILEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

April 5th, 1943.